1st February 1934]

A.—The several clauses of question No. 445 are answered in the annexure.[a]

Labour

Economic enquiry concerning industrial workmen and artisans.

594 *Q.*—Rao Sahib Pandit GANALA RAMAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government are contemplating an enquiry regarding the present economic condition of the industrial workmen and artisans in this Presidency including their family budgets?

A.—The Royal Commission on Labour recommended that enquiries into the family budgets of industrial workers should be undertaken in Madras. The recommendation is receiving the attention of Government.

Police

Observations of the Assistant Sessions Judge, Calicut, on the conduct of the Police officer concerned in the investigation of the case of defalcation in the Malabar District Educational Council.

595 *Q.*—Mr. P. MADHUSOODHANAN THANGAL: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the dismissal of the Malabar District Educational Council defalcation case on 20th November 1933 from the Court of the Assistant Sessions Judge of Calicut and the grave allegation made in the judgment against the conduct of the Police officer or officers responsible for the enquiry of the case; and

(*b*) in the light of the disclosures made in the judgment, whether the Government are intending to hold any enquiry or take any action in the matter?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Inspector-General of Police has been asked to report.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

II.—A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS IMPARTIBLE ESTATES ACT, 1904 (BILL No. 11 OF 1932).

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now proceed with the discussion on the motion that the Madras Impartible Estates Act Amendment Bill (Bill No. 11 of 1932) as reported on by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 372 infra.

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Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" May I know if this is in pursuance of an agreement that this Bill might be deferred to a later date? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I think so. The agreement reached the other day was that the Bill should be deferred to a later date. Even otherwise nothing will stand in the way of our taking it up now."

* The KUMARARAJA OF VENKATAGIRI:—" Sir, I beg to move that the consideration of this Bill be adjourned till the next available non-official day. I make this suggestion because those of us who are interested in the Bill met last night to see whether an agreement was possible to be arrived at on the various amendments that have been given notice of. I, therefore, move that the Bill may be adjourned till the next available non-official day in order to enable us to arrive at an understanding on the various amendments."

Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR:—" I second it."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" Sir, the other day when a motion of this nature was brought forward by one of the hon. Members of this House, I said that, if hon. Members of this House chose to amend any Act, they must do so with a full sense of their responsibility to the Members of this House. Before they introduce any Bill, they must see what they are about. They must expect that there would be opposition to some of the provisions. I therefore respectfully point out to the hon. Mover that he is really not doing justice either to the cause that he espouses or to the Members of this House when he says that he is carrying on negotiations with a view to arrive at an agreement and that the consideration of this Bill should be postponed. As I said the other day, the Select Committee met a number of times and discussed the various provisions of the Bill. They also postponed the consideration of the Bill for some time. Hon. Members whose interests were affected were there and they expressed their opinions. I thought an agreement was reached unanimously at the Select Committee. I do not know what has happened subsequently that has necessitated the starting of negotiations on the part of Members of this House. The House would like to know all those facts. The hon. Member who moved for the adjournment of the consideration of the Bill said that he wished it to be adjourned till the next available non-official day. Of course, I know that the hon. the Leader of the House has told us that His Excellency the Governor will not allow us another non-official day during this session. Therefore, if the hon. the Mover of the Bill is agreeable to give up his own Bill, I have no objection; but is it certainly due to this House that, when Bills are brought forward, they are brought forward with a certain sense of responsibility. If they had no mind to carry them through, they ought not to have introduced them at all."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—" I appreciate the vicarious suffering which the hon. Member who spoke before me would experience

by a postponement of the consideration of this Bill. The hon. Mover of the adjournment motion has shown that there are important and radical changes in the provisions of the Bill with regard to the claims on the estates by decree-holders and by those who claim maintenance. The amendments given notice of by the hon. Member, the Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri, are also radical. These are things which cannot be easily disposed of. The persons affected are zamindars of impartible estates and the Mover also feels that an important measure like this which affects primarily the rights of the various impartible estate-holders should not be hurried through. Already the decisions on the rights of maintenance as reported in 16 Madras and other cases are so complicated and conflicting that we cannot hastily consider this measure in view of the large number of amendments that have been given notice of. Therefore, when there is an agreement between those who will be 11-15 a.m. affected by this measure, I do not see any reason why there should be any opposition from any quarter whatever may be the vicarious suffering they may imagine to be undergoing."

* Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo:—" Sir, this Bill affects the zamindars most and therefore there is no use of rushing through it without convincing them that the Bill should be passed in a particular form. In our negotiations with them, we find that they are earnest in coming to a certain agreement on this question. We sat twice yesterday and we have agreed upon certain amendments of which we have given notice. The form of these amendments is being considered by the zamindars themselves. It is necessary that there should be some agreement between the parties concerned and in order to facilitate that, we should postpone the consideration of the Bill to the next non-official day. I appreciate the point of view of the hon. Member, Mr. Hameed Khan. He was the Chairman of the Select Committee and he knows a good deal about this question. Some of the zamindars attended the Select Committee and some considered carefully the provisions of the Bill, but there are many zamindars who did not pay attention to the provisions of the Bill and there is no harm in giving them an opportunity to consider them carefully, so that we may arrive at an agreement satisfactory to all concerned. It is with this object in view, I have agreed to the postponement of the consideration of the Bill."

* The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—" Mr. President, Sir, I have only to say that from the point of view of Government, I have no objection to the adjournment of this measure. In fact, I should like the Bill to be adjourned if new proposals are going to be made on behalf of one party or the other. The Government have already examined the proposals on the agenda and, if new proposals representing any agreement between hon. Members representing zamindars and hon. Members representing the other party are to be brought forward, I should prefer that the Bill should be adjourned rather than that such new proposals should be brought before the Government quite suddenly."

The question that the consideration of the Bill be adjourned to the next non-official day was put and carried.